

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:
Patent Claims

1. Method for controlling the offering of at least one additional transmission channel as access to a packet-switching network (PN) on which information in the form of data and/or, potentially, voice can be transmitted within a line-switching network between an access node (POP) connected to the packet-switching network and at least one subscriber terminal device (TLN) and/or at least one private branch exchange for the connection of subscriber terminal devices, whereby such an access node forwards such information incoming from the line-switching network in the direction toward at least one destination node (UZ) of the packet-switching network and also communicates such information about such transmission channels contained in data packets coming from at least one originating node (UZ) to at least one such subscriber terminal device and/or private branch exchange in a form adapted to the line switching, characterized in that the access node recognizes data packets separately identified with a traffic information among incoming data packets, and, according to the traffic information, initiates the offering of at least one additional transmission channel for the purpose of a connection with at least one existing transmission channel to form a common transmission link between the access node and at least one such subscriber terminal device or, respectively, private branch exchange.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the access node can produce a release of at least one such additionally offered transmission channel after recognizing an incoming data packet separately identified with a disconnect information.

3. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the access node can occasion a release of at least one such additionally offered transmission channel when no data packets separately identified with a traffic information are received and recognized in the access node within a defined time duration.

4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that such traffic information is contained in a bit pattern in the header of such a data packet.

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5. Method according to claim 4, characterized in that such a bit pattern indicates the plurality of transmission channels to be additionally offered.

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5 6. Method according to one of the claims 1 through 3, characterized in that such a traffic information can be communicated by a data packet having exclusive signalling function.

7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a data packet separately identified with a traffic information can influence the charge assessment of the additionally offered transmission channels.

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